

Jamie Woodlief

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**From:** Jamie Woodlief [jamie.woodlief@ncpublicschools.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 3:22 PM  
**To:** More at Four Contract Administrators; More at Four Program Contacts; More at Four Fiscal Contacts; More at Four Local Board Chairs  
**Cc:** OEL Staff; ccobb4@nc.rr.com; Ellen Peisner-Feinberg; Jennifer Schaaf; kkconsulting@nc.rr.com  
**Subject:** PreK Funding Update

As the budget process proceeds, it is expected that funding for the More at Four Pre-kindergarten program (MAF) will be reduced for the 2010-2011 program year. Currently, recommended reductions range from \$3.24 million (Governor's proposal) to \$6.2 million (House proposal) to \$10 million (Senate proposal). The final reduction will be decided in conference committee and will appear in the final budget bill.

As the Office of Early Learning (OEL) plans to meet the expected reduction, recent action of the State Board of Education (SBE) must be considered. Based on recommendations submitted by the Legislative Task Force on the Consolidation of Early Education and Care, the SBE charged the OEL to take specific steps to meet expected reduction targets and preserve the maximum number of funded MAF slots statewide. Consequently, the OEL will:

- establish an administrative cap on More at Four program funding and establish parameters for allowable administrative costs,
- hold current provider rates "harmless" for the 2010-2011 program year,
- conduct a deliberate study of the program's funding model and,
- recommend to the SBE a model that is based on the participating provider cost structures and more adequately directs MAF funds to the classroom to support teacher costs associated with Birth-Kindergarten licensure.

As the budget process unfolds, the OEL will communicate information specific to defined funding cuts for each MAF county/region. Recognizing that any cut will be difficult, it is the intention of the SBE to minimize the impact on children to be served in the program. The OEL will work to honor that intention.

As always, thank you for what you do.

John R. Pruette

Executive Director

Office of Early Learning

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

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